



Sheila Dixon
President,
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President Sheila Dixon Announces Transition Team Co-Chairs

Transition Team to Develop Priorities for New Administration

Baltimore, MD (November 9, 2006) – City Council President Sheila Dixon introduced today the co-chairs of her mayoral transition committee. Betty Bland-Thomas, President of the Sharp-Leadenhall Planning Committee, and a member of the Inclusionary Zoning Task Force, stood with Atwood (Woody) Collins III, Executive Vice President of M&T Bank Corporation, and President and COO of its Mid-Atlantic Division, to announce plans to lead President Dixon's transition team. The committee's responsibility is to assist President Dixon in achieving a smooth transition in city government, as Governor-elect Martin O'Malley prepares his transition to State government.

"This is an exciting time for Baltimore City," remarked President Dixon. "I am so grateful to Woody Collins and Bette Bland-Thomas for stepping up to lead a distinguished and diverse transition committee. I look forward to meeting with the committee to share my core values and priorities, but then step back and let the committee do its work."

Mr. Collins has been an Executive Vice President of M&T Bank since 1988 and has served as President of a number of the bank's divisions in New York. In 2002, he relocated from Darien, Connecticut to Baltimore in conjunction with M&T Bank's 2003 acquisition of the \$17 billion Allfirst Financial, Inc.

Mr. Collins is involved in a number of outside community and philanthropic activities. Mr. Collins serves as vice chair of the Greater Baltimore Committee, and also serves on the boards of the Baltimore Development Corporation, University of Maryland Medical System, Kennedy Krieger Institute, World Trade Center Institute, Living Classrooms Foundation, Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc.

In addition to her dynamic leadership in Sharp-Leadenhall, Ms. Bland-Thomas chairs the Southern District's Police Community Council. She also serves on the Board of the Gwynns Falls Trail Council. In 2004, Ms. Bland-Thomas co-founded the Parent Advisory Council at the Solo Gibbs Police Athletic League (PAL) Center, which is bolstering parent participation in PAL activities and is working to expand and enhance those activities.

The transition team will have an executive committee comprised of the co-chairs of the transition team and the chair of the four working committees. These four committees include: Neighborhood & Economic Development; Education and Intergovernmental Affairs; Mayor's Office and Constituent Services; and Community and Social Services. The four committees will

be chaired by Ken Banks, President, Banks Contracting; Barbara Hoffman, former Maryland State Senator; Mark L. Wasserman, Senior Vice President of External Affairs, University of Maryland Medical System; and Scot T. Spencer, Manager of Baltimore Relations, Annie E. Casey Foundation, respectively.

Andrew Frank, Executive Vice President of the Baltimore Development Corporation and Otis Rolley, III, Director of Planning will staff the committee as co-directors.

President Dixon closed her remarks with, “I also look forward to continuing the many relationships I have developed over my nineteen years in public service and I will forge new partnerships that advance us on our journey toward safer, cleaner, healthier neighborhoods; economic development, economic equity, and economic empowerment; and superior public education.”

President Dixon and the Transition Team encourage you to share your ideas and thoughts about the transition with them by sending comments to: dixontransition@baltimorecity.gov. Also, if you are interested in being considered for a position in the Dixon Administration, please send your letter of interest and resume as attachments to the same e-mail address.

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